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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,315	01/11/2002	Christine C. Dykstra	421/60/18/2	6772

25297 7590 06/18/2003

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DURHAM, NC 27707

EXAMINER
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STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1626

9

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
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DATE MAILED:

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This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

### OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

#### Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-106 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-106 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

#### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

10/044,315

## DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-106 are pending in the application.

### *Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35

U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-17, drawn to products, classified in class 548, subclass 304.4+.
- II. Claims 18-25, drawn to products, classified in class 548, subclass 311.1+.
- III. Claims 26-52, drawn to products, classified in classes 548/560+ and 549/various subclasses.
- IV. Claims 53-59, drawn to methods, classified in class 514, various subclasses.
- V. Claim 60, drawn to methods, classified in class 514, various subclasses.

- VI. Claims 61-77, drawn to methods, classified in class 514,  
various subclasses.
- VII. Claims 78-83, drawn to methods, classified in class 514,  
various subclasses.
- VIII. Claim 84, drawn to methods, classified in class 514, various  
subclasses.
- IX. Claims 85-100, drawn to methods, classified in class 514,  
various subclasses.
- X. Claims 101-106, drawn to methods, classified in class 514,  
various subclasses.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: the products of Groups I-III differ materially in structure and element so much so as to be patentably distinct. In addition, a reference which anticipates one group may not even render obvious the other.

Inventions of Groups I-III and Groups IV-X are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product. Groups IV-X are directed to methods which are patentably distinct from each other.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, and the search required for Group I, for example, is not required for Group V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Therefore, it would impose an undue burden on the Examiner and the Patent Office's resources to examine the instant application if unrestricted.

The above groups themselves are inclusive of patentably distinct subject matter. Accordingly, along with the election of one of the above groups, the following action is also taken.

**Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species (e.g., Example number, page number and structural depiction) from whichever group is ultimately elected, even though this requirement is traversed.**

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Upon the election of a single disclosed species (e.g. Example, page number and structural depiction), a generic concept, inclusive of the elected species, will be identified by the Examiner for examination.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1875. The examiner can

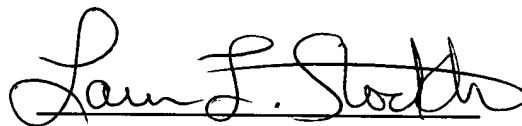
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normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (703) 308-4537.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura L. Stockton", written over a horizontal line.

Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1626, Group 1620

Technology Center 1600

**June 13, 2003**